

PAPER COMBINES DUE TO GET JOLT

Government Ownership of Mill to Supply Printing Office is Proposed in Bill Introduced.

CONGRESSMAN TAVENNER IDEA

Publishers Would Be Given Data to Show How They Are Being Held Up By the Trust.

Washington, Sept. 8.—Government ownership of a pulp and paper mill for the manufacture of print paper for the government printing office is proposed in a bill which Representative Clyde H. Tavenner of Illinois introduced in the house of representatives. Mr. Tavenner intends to make every effort to have the bill reported favorably at an early date in the next session from the committee on printing of which he is a member.

It is proposed to construct a mill of sufficient size to produce 50 tons of paper a day, which is about double the present requirements of the government printing office for print paper, and for this purpose an appropriation of \$1,000,000 is authorized. The bill requires that the mill shall be located with special reference to utilization of the forests; minerals, waterpower and other resources of the public lands and the president is authorized to set aside such sites as may be selected on the public lands for that purpose. The bill further directs that the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of commerce shall assist the public printer in the construction and operation of the mill, which insures adequate expert and technical skill for the new enterprise inasmuch as the department of agriculture and the department of commerce have already done considerable work along the lines proposed by the Tavenner bill.

Mr. Tavenner states that his principal purpose in urging the government manufacture of paper are as follows: First, to provide an adequate supply of print paper at all times and at a fair price, thus protecting the government from the grasping combines that now refuse to furnish necessary paper for the operations of the government except at exorbitant and non-competitive prices. Second, to obtain for newspaper publishers and the printing trade in general definite information as to the cost of the manufacture of print paper so as to likewise protect them from excessive charges by unscrupulous manufacturers who seek, under abnormal conditions, to advance their own selfish interests, entirely regardless of the public service performed by newspaper and other publishers in the distribution of necessary information to the people. Third, to utilize the forests and water power on the public lands in the economical manufacture of paper for the benefit of the government and to prevent further waste of these resources which the paper interests are seeking to have withheld from competition with their monopolistic ownership of wood pulp and power sites. Fourth, to furnish adequate and practical means for the development of new fibers, other than wood, for the manufacture of paper, and the conservation of the forests of the United States, the destruction of which is largely chargeable to their extravagant use in the manufacture of paper.

At Mercy of Combine.
The government of the United States has long been at the mercy of paper combine trusts, which have undoubtedly have profited greatly in furnishing paper to the government printing office, which is one of the largest consumers of paper in the world. This situation has become all the more intolerable during the past year, when the paper manufacturers have taken advantage of conditions alleged to be due to the war to demand still more exorbitant prices for their products. Some of the manufacturers are even attempting to repudiate their contracts with the government, though these contracts provide in several instances for increases amounting to more than 50 per cent above the price paid for the same paper last year. These contractors, while refusing to furnish paper under their agreement for the year ending March 1, 1917, are demanding two and three times their contract price when the government seeks to make open market purchases of the paper necessary to continue operations of the government printing office. Even at these outrageous prices the public printer is unable to obtain any real competition, practically only

ALEDO AT A GLANCE

Daily Doings in Mercer County's Busy Capital

Things Moving Lively.

The oil roads leading to the fair grounds are being put to the test. Wagons loaded with stand, show and exhibit material are continually seen on the road leading to the grounds. These people who are arriving thus early are probably aware of the great rush for preferred locations. One or two stands are already erected and running, while others are under course of construction. It is never much of a task for the privilege man to sell ground space at the local fair.

Two Accidents.

Mrs. G. L. David fell Wednesday from the front steps of her home, striking the cement walk and breaking her left arm.

Isa Smith, daughter of Mrs. Elmer Smith, fell on Wednesday evening and tore the ligaments loose in her left wrist.

Sunday in Churches.

Methodist—Dr. F. E. Shult, pastor. Sunday morning at 10:30 fourth quarterly communion service. Sunday school at 11:45 a. m. Epworth league rally day service at 6:30 p. m. All members of the Epworth league are urged to be present at this service. The pastor will conduct the evening services at 7:30.

United Presbyterian—J. B. Pollock, pastor. Morning sermon and worship at 10:30. Sunday school at 11:45. Young People's meeting at 6:30. Evening sermon and worship at 7:30.

Stock Parade Fair Feature.

Secretary E. R. Petrie is working hard in an endeavor to revive the live stock parade at the county fair this year. The practice of holding this pleasing spectacle was discontinued a few years ago, but Secretary Petrie will try to have such a parade held on Thursday of next week's fair. In former years it was impossible for the judges to finish the live stock judging before Friday, and the exhibitors began taking the stock from the grounds on Friday afternoon. Now that methods have been changed and the judging can be completed earlier, it will be comparatively easy to hold such a parade. This will be a fine sight if carried out at the coming fair. Arrangements have been made whereby the people will be royally entertained between each hour of the races during the fair. The Flying Moors, a trapeze troupe, numbering six, will be on hand each day to afford some thrilling entertainment. Wilkes roller skating troupe will also give exhibitions of fancy skating each afternoon. There are four members of this troupe and each an artist of exceptional ability.

one bid being submitted in most instances, and that by the company which refused to continue furnishing paper to the government at its contract price. In other words, the company appears to be a mutual understanding among the paper trade to refrain from competitive bidding for government business. This conduct on the part of competitive bidders for government business is a most serious situation. At times the government has had the greatest difficulty to obtain sufficient paper to print the necessary records.

With all the resources at its command, owning, as it does, vast forests and great water power sites adequate to produce many times the required quantity of paper, the government ought never again to be reduced to the necessity of begging the paper monopoly to furnish paper to the public printer regardless of price.

The present acute situation only accentuates the condition that has long prevailed in the purchase of paper for the government printing office. Though the joint committee on printing, which awards the contracts for paper, has made every effort in its power to secure adequate competition and fair prices for paper for the government printing office, the fact remains that there has been but little competition for the government's business. It has been charged that the prospective bidders have sometimes held informal meetings before submitting their proposals to the government and have allotted different items among themselves, putting in non-competitive bids accordingly. Every effort has been made to break up this practice and to obtain sufficient evidence to prosecute the guilty parties, but, as in nearly all cases of collusion, it has been impossible to obtain evidence sufficiently conclusive for court proceedings. This question of collusion among paper manufacturers to advance prices or otherwise in restraint of trade, was gone into very carefully by a select committee of the house which made a pulp and paper investigation in 1908. That committee in its report stated

They will perform all the latest dances on the rollers. Thus it is plain that there will be no end of excellent free exhibitions for the entertainment of the crowds during the fair the coming week.

To Build Tabernacle.

The committee in charge of the coming revival services has arranged for a tabernacle to be built the week following the Mercer county fair. The structure will be erected upon the vacant space just north of the United Presbyterian church. A representative will be sent here by Evangelist Newlin and he will superintend the building process. The evangelist and his party of co-workers will arrive the latter part of September and the meetings will begin the first of October.

Personal Mention.

Mrs. Albert Farms went to Keithsburg to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Ogle.

Miss Irene Sandberg, who has visited here the past few weeks with relatives, left Wednesday for Chicago, where she will spend two weeks with her cousin, Mrs. Angie Peterson. She will go from there to her home in Jacksonville.

Mrs. F. M. Day left yesterday for Rochelle, Minn., where she will spend a week or two at the Mayo Bros' hospital.

W. D. Hart was in Woodhull yesterday.

Mrs. F. M. Willie of Garden Grove, Iowa, who is the guest of her sister, Mrs. L. A. Davis, went to Reo yesterday for a short visit with friends.

Earl Peters arrived yesterday from New Boston. He will visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Peters here.

Mrs. Clyde Scott left yesterday for Reynolds, where she will visit with Mrs. Sam Vickers.

Mrs. Maria Evans and daughter Grace spent yesterday with Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Lipton at Preemption.

Mrs. B. R. Winbigger spent yesterday in Monmouth.

Miss Leona Horan was an Aleo visitor from Preemption yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Baumeister arrived yesterday morning from Madison, Wis., where they have spent a few weeks with home folk.

Miss Violet Ralston came last week from her home at Hopewell and will spend the winter here with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Wilson.

Miss Johnson Hostess.

Miss Minnie Johnson was hostess to the Dorcas society of the Swedish church last evening. The evening was enjoyably spent. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

that considerable evidence was presented which might excite suspicion that such combinations had been made and were in existence. It seems, therefore, that the only course left for the government to pursue is to engage in the manufacture of paper for itself and in this regard it is very fortunately situated, as has already been pointed out, in the ownership of practically everything necessary to carry out the enterprise successfully.

To Aid Newspapers.

In addition to providing paper for the government at cost price, it is proposed by the bill to aid newspaper and other publishers in securing it for their use at a fair price. The cost of producing paper, particularly newspaper paper, has long been a mooted question. It was investigated at great length by a select committee in 1908 and again by the tariff board in 1911, but is still a subject of much controversy. The bill proposes, therefore, that the public printer shall keep an accurate and itemized account of the cost per ton of the product of the government paper mill and report same to congress annually. It is believed that this report as to cost will be of inestimable value in determining a fair price to be charged by paper manufacturers.

The bill also provides that if the public printer shall have any surplus on hand after supplying the needs of the government, such surplus shall be sold by him at not less than cost. It is believed that this surplus product may have some effect in preventing exorbitant prices for paper in the future. That the public printer's price per ton may represent an adequate charge for the paper the secretary of the interior and the secretary of agriculture are directed to sell to him the necessary raw materials obtained from the public lands "at a fair price" so that all elements of cost will enter into the report submitted by the public printer as to the operation of his plant.

Utilization of the forest reserves and water power sites now owned by the government is really one of the important features of the bill. It is a most wasteful policy to leave these government-owned forests and water power sites in idleness when they can be readily turned to such great advantage. This policy of the government has been taken advantage of, undoubtedly, by the paper manufacturers to greatly increase the price of their own product, having no fear at present of competition from the materials that are locked up in the government's vast store houses. As a matter of fact, the government has not even been able to dispose of its wood to the pulp mills of the United States, though it has large quantities on hand at present. Pulp and paper manufacturers have been declaring that high prices of paper are due to the scarcity and excessive cost of wood pulp due principally to the difficulty of obtaining pulp from Canada and existing war conditions. The president, however, has just made public a letter from the secretary of agriculture, under date of Aug. 3, 1916, setting forth the fact that the forest service has offered for sale large quantities of timber for pulp for pulp operation but that up to the present time it has not been able to make such sales. This statement from the secretary of agriculture completely refutes the claim of the paper manufacturers that their present prices are due to the scarcity of agricultural materials. The secretary of agriculture says in this regard, in his letter concerning the print paper situation:

"The forest service has offered for sale at various times large amounts of timber on the national forests in logging chances favorable for pulp operations. These

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L. S. McCabe & Co.
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Just Unboxed—New fall and winter assortments of fancy buttons—See them.

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Refreshingly different from those of previous seasons, with their full rippling collars which verge on capes, and their full backs, some of which are held in with belts.

The materials are Bolivia Cloth, Zibelines, Wool Velours, Broadcloths, Serges, Novelty Checks and Mixtures; also handsome Fur Fabrics and rich Velvets and Velours.

All the season's prominent colors are represented, including Plum, Crow Blue, Normandy Blue, Hemlock Green, Java Brown, Mouse, Burgundy, also Black. Prices \$5.75 to \$95.00.

Women's New Autumn Suits Have Much to Recommend Them

Every woman appreciates the grace of the long coat; the fur or velvet collar is invariably becoming; and there is something rich and warm about these deep-toned, soft finished fabrics which is distinctively Autumnal.

You can choose here from velours, elegant broadcloths, smart serges and poplins, velvet checks and novelties in Plum, Midnight Blue, Java Brown, Burgundy, Mouse Gray, Russian Green, Callot Blue and Black.

Priced according to material and style at \$15.00 to \$75.00



Fashion Furs for the Coming Season—Reliable, Dependable, Reasonably Priced

Hundreds of exquisite fur pieces from the Northern and Eastern markets are here, ready for your choosing. Early though it is, many are making selections for their winter's needs.



White Coney sets, neck piece in fancy half cape model with two long satin streamers, fur tabs and slides—can be worn in new drop shoulder effect for fall wear or close fitting muffler style for cold weather. The muff is in the new small round shape. This set \$21.25.

A Red Fox set has novel animal scarf, giving cape effect that can be worn with straps over shoulder; muff trimmed with head and tail. Price \$19.50.

Nutri Beaver sets, collarlette effect neck piece with cross button fastenings to be worn up or down. Medium size muff. This set \$29.50.

A melon shaped muff of brook mink, beautifully blended, is a wonderful value at \$9.50.

A rich Hudson Lynx muff, melon shape, is \$5.00.

A big fluffy half barrel Lynx muff with fancy silk pleating is \$9.75.

Genuine Jap Mink muffs, animal trimmed, melon shape, priced at \$20.00.

Natural Coney Muffs, full and fluffy, \$4.87.

Black Coney Muffs, head and tail trimmed, \$2.50.

Good plain black coney muffs, at \$1.95.

A beautiful coat of fine Hudson Seal is 42 inches long with 65 inch sweep, convertible collar, fancy cuffs, exquisite figured silk lining. Priced at \$98.00.

Elegant Hudson Seal coats with cape collar, circular flare style that hangs full from shoulder, 30 inch sweep, fancy silk lined, at \$175.00.

Women's Waists Showing of Early Fall Styles In Suit-Matching Colors

The new browns, grays, burgundies and plums, sheerest, supplest fabrics. Chiffons, Georgette crepes and Crepes de Chine.

Embroidered, beaded, lace-trimmed, metal-trimmed.

Richer trimmings of the backs; still more variety of collar treatments.

Prices: \$3.95, \$4.50 and up to \$10.75.

Many Pieces of Fine Furniture Discounted 33 1/3 Per Cent

Having decided to move our Drapery and Curtain Section to the Third Floor, it necessitates condensing our Furniture space.

To do this quickly we have gone carefully through our big Furniture stock and sorted out several groups of high grade Furniture, which we will place on sale Monday and until sold, at 1-3 off present prices. Groups include

- | | |
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| 8 Buffets | 9 Library Tables |
| 6 Dining Tables | 8 Brass Beds |
| 4 China Closets | 6 Metal Beds |
| 10 Chiffoniers | 19 Rockers |

The pieces are in oak, mahogany, and circassian walnut—We invite you to look these over carefully, select what you can use at 33 1-3 per cent off.

areas are located mainly in the Pacific northwest and in Alaska, and offer combinations of suitable and cheap timber with large quantities of easily developed water power. Up to the present time it has not been possible to make such sales. The chief difficulty has been that the western markets have been fully supplied and, in fact, mill capacity probably has been in excess of market demands. Western mills with the advantage of cheap power and cheap timber seemed to be unable to enter eastern and middle western markets, and the only opportunity for successful enterprises seemed to be the more or less uncertain possibility of being able to develop foreign and chiefly oriental markets. These areas undoubtedly will be placed under contract as soon as economic conditions permit their development. They are offered under terms designed to encourage the development of the pulp and paper industry.

Plenty of Timber.

That the national forests contain enough timber to operate half a hundred mills of the size of the one proposed by this bill is easily apparent from the fact that the forest reserves owned by the public now contain 162,773,280 acres, and slightly more than 4,000,000,000 board feet of timber was sold from these reserves in 1915. This one billion feet constitutes ripe timber which was of no further advantage to the forest reserves and consequently its cutting was in the interests of forest conservation. Reduced to cords this represents an annual supply of 650,000 cords. Compared with this vast supply, a 100-ton mill, or double the capacity of the mill proposed by the bill, would use only 37,500 cords of wood per year, according to the statement of foremost paper manufacturers.

David S. Cowles, president of the American Paper and Pulp association in his testimony before the select committee in 1908 (Vol. 2, page 893) stated that 7,500 acres per year would be sufficient to supply pulp wood for a 100-ton mill cutting five cords to the acre. By recutting this acreage once in 15 years, which is believed to be sufficient time to allow a growth of suitable new timber, it would require a total of 112,500 acres to keep a 100-ton mill in operation. This, of course, is a mere bagatelle as compared with the 162,000,000 acres in the national forest reservation, a large part of which would be available for pulp wood for a government plant.

There is no question, therefore, that the government has an ample supply of timber for the operation of a paper mill, and that it has any number of

water power sites available in suitable localities for such a mill.

This view is confirmed by a statement which Acting Forester W. B. Greeley, of the United States forest service has just submitted to the joint committee on printing in regard to the volume of national forest timber suitable for pulp making purposes. In this statement, Mr. Greeley says:

"The commercial feasibility of the establishment of a pulp plant hinges partly on the supply of timber and partly on the water power available; the national forests admirably combine these two factors. The western country abounds in undeveloped water power; to utilize these streams in conjunction with a pulp plant is perfectly feasible in several localities of which examinations have already been made. As illustrations of the resources of the national forests which can be drawn upon, I would point out an area on the Yaak river in the Roosevelt national forest, Montana, where approximately 500,000,000 feet of Engelmann spruce and other woods adapted to pulp making are available, with an excellent undeveloped water power site. On the South Fork and Middle Fork of the Flathead river in the Flathead national forest, Montana, are areas, estimated to contain 2,000,000,000 and 1,500,000,000 feet, respectively, of paper-making woods; in these two instances for cheap water power development. Another pulp wood area is found in the Selway national forest, Idaho, which has a stand of more than a billion feet and excess of water powers; again, on the Plumas national forest, California, an area has been examined which contains about 650,000 cords of wood suitable for pulp making and 3,500 horse power awaiting development. On the Tongass and Chugach national forests in Alaska is a stand of more than 70,000,000,000 feet of timber, a large part of which is Engelmann spruce and western hemlock from which can be manufactured a good grade of pulp. Water power, too, is abundant and the Alaska projects have the added advantage of being on tide water. The physical conditions in southern Alaska resemble in many respects those of Norway and Sweden, which have been leading countries in the production of pulp and paper. There is no question that the Alaskan national forests are capable of great service to the country in the future, with their

enormous supply of good paper-making woods."

Has Experimented.

The government has already done considerable experimenting with various materials other than wood pulp for the manufacture of paper. These experiments have been conducted largely by the department of agriculture.

That suitable paper can be made from such material as cotton stalks, corn stalks, cereal straws, grasses, and various fibrous plants is no longer an experiment. It has been difficult, however, to induce paper manufacturers to take up the manufacture of paper from any of these materials. The paper industry is due, in many instances, to their large holdings in wood pulp mills and heavy investments in timber lands. It is quite probable that they fear that the successful manufacture of paper from material other than wood pulp would greatly depreciate the value of their investment and encourage new and undesirable competition in the paper industry.

Consequently it seems that the only way to obtain a practical test of the other materials for the manufacture of paper is for the government itself to undertake such a test. That can only be done by the establishment of a mill of adequate size to manufacture paper in commercial quantities. The proposed mill could be used for such a purpose as its 50-ton capacity would be more than sufficient to supply paper for the immediate needs of the government. Germany has already commenced the manufacture of paper from cotton stalks and paper experts have no doubt but that cotton stalks made from cotton and print paper made or later be a commercial success. If the government can advance benefit to the farmers of the United States who now find little or no use for their corn and cotton stalks.

If the proposed mill were to be erected with no other object in view than that of making a commercial success of manufacturing paper from these waste materials of the farmer, it would more than justify the proposed expenditure.

The authorized expenditure of \$1,000,000 for a paper mill of not less than 50 tons daily capacity is based upon expert figures submitted by the tariff board through its report relative to the pulp and news print paper industry in 1911 (Senate document 31, 62nd congress). This report indicates that the necessary capital investment per ton per day for a balanced plant consisting of a ground wood mill, sulphite mill, and paper mill, suitably equipped, ranges from \$15,000 to \$20,000, for a 100-ton plant. At the

higher figure, which includes the cost of hydraulic development, a 50-ton plant, such as is proposed, would cost approximately \$1,000,000, the authorized appropriation. In this regard I quote as follows from the tariff board report, pp. 72-73:

"The lowest actual balanced mill which we have examined in this regard shows \$15,000. The lowest calculations we have received (from a professional engineer) show an estimated range from \$15,000 for a 25-ton mill, with \$13,000 for a 50-ton mill, and \$19,000 for a 100-ton mill to \$9,700 for a 200-ton mill. These last figures do not include any part of the cost of hydraulic development, so that the totals would be increased by this amount, which, on the basis of 75 horse power per ton, would be \$2,250 if the cost per horse power is \$30, or \$3,750 at a cost per horse power of \$50, or \$7,500 at a cost per horse power of \$100.

"It may be said in general terms that under normal conditions an investment for hydraulic power and fully equipped balanced plant of best construction and equipment, and a capacity of 100 tons per day, ought to be fully covered by \$17,000 per ton per day. For a plant of smaller capacity the cost would be somewhat greater. This does not include either cost of water storage facilities or provision for extra grinding capacity to offset lack of such storage. If these were included the total might be increased to \$20,000. Either of these figures should be taken as a liberal estimate."

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